



PHIBRON FORWARD NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

MARCH 2016

Boxer ARG, 13th MEU Arrive in 7th Fleet Area of Operations

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Craig Z. Rodarte, USS Boxer (LHD 4) (Feb. 27, 2016)



ship USS Boxer (LHD 4), amphibious transport dock USS New Orleans (LPD 18) and amphibious dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49).

The 13th MEU is comprised of a ground combat element, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment; an aviation combat element, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 166 (Reinforced); a logistics combat element, Combat Logistics Battalion 13; and a command element.

While deployed, the ARG/MEU team serves as a sea-based, expeditionary crisis response force capable of conducting amphibious missions across the full range of military operations.

The mission of the Boxer ARG is to help provide deterrence, promote peace and security, preserve freedom of the seas and provide humanitarian assistance/disaster response as well as support the Navy's Maritime Strategy when forward deployed.

The mission of the 13th MEU is to provide a forward deployed, flexible sea-based Marine Air Ground Task Force capable of conducting amphibious operations, crisis response and limited contingency operations, including enabling the introduction of follow on forces and designated special operations in order to support the theater requirements of Geographic Combatant Commanders.

For more information on Boxer ARG visit:
<http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/cpr-1/>
<http://www.facebook.com/amphibious Squadron One/>
For more information on the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, visit:

<http://www.13thmeu.marines.mil>
<http://www.facebook.com/13thMEUView/>
For more information on USS Boxer (LHD 4) visit:
<http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/lhd4/>
<https://www.facebook.com/USSBOXER>

PACIFIC OCEAN – The Boxer Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (13th MEU) team began operating in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations, Feb. 27.

"The BOXER ARG, 13th MEU team has trained hard and is ready to enter the complex 7th Fleet operating area," said Capt. Keith Moore, commodore of Amphibious Squadron One. "This is a vibrant, diverse and vital region of the world with immense importance to global security. I am looking forward to making new friends as we work with our regional partners to improve cooperation and readiness."

While forward deployed to 7th Fleet, the ARG/MEU team will participate in exercise Ssang Yong 2016, work to strengthen ties with allies, deter conflict and conduct operations in support of the Asia-Pacific Maritime Security Strategy.

"Few regions in the world are as important to America's interest as the Pacific and 7th Fleet's area of responsibility. The Boxer ARG, 13th MEU team contributes to the security and stability of our partners and allies throughout the region by engagement and cooperation," said Col. Anthony Henderson, commanding officer of the 13th MEU. "Yes we are trained and ready across the spectrum of contingencies and potential crisis, but just as important our presence shows our commitment."

The 7th Fleet AOR spans more than 124 million square kilometers stretching from the International Date Line to the India/Pakistan border and from the Kuril Islands in the North to the Antarctic in the South encompassing 36 maritime countries and half of the world's population.

Boxer ARG is comprised of Amphibious Squadron (COMPHIBRON) One, amphibious assault

* Boxer ARG, 13th MEU
Arrive in 7th Fleet
Area of Operations

* USS New Orleans Deploys

* Harpers Ferry Conducts
Amphibious Operations
in Hawaii

* Commodore:
Navy Family Benefits
from Diversity

* Senior Sailor, Junior
Sailor and Bluejacket of the
Quarter

* Distinguished Visitors &
Awards





USS New Orleans Deploys

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Brandon Cyr,
USS New Orleans Public Affairs (Feb. 12, 2016)

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Chelsea D. Daily

SAN DIEGO - The warm morning sun began to dry the puffy, tear soaked eyes of over 1,100 Sailors and Marines as they embraced their loved ones, one last time before crossing the brow of amphibious transport dock ship USS New Orleans (LPD-18) to depart on a scheduled deployment.

An eerie silence set upon the ship as the words “man the rails” rang out through the 1MC speaker. Sailors and Marines began to pour out onto the weather decks in their freshly pressed dress uniforms ready to take one last look at their homeport of San Diego.

The Sailors and Marines around the ship were called to attention, and then they were instructed to stand at parade rest as the ship prepared to get underway.

They reflected on times with their families and loved ones as the 1MC broke the silence once more. “Underway! Shift colors!”

More than 4,500 Sailors and Marines from amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD-4), amphibious dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry (LSD-49) and New Orleans as part of the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (13th MEU) departed San Diego February 12, 2016 for a deployment to the 3rd, 5th and 7th Fleet areas of operations.

“It was like nothing I have ever experienced,” said Yeoman Third Class Kendall Hamilton. “I was filled with so many emotions after saying goodbye to my newborn son.”

This will be the first deployment for Hamilton, as well as for many other Sailors and embarked Marines.

“Even though I will miss my family very much, I am very excited to see the world and experience something fun and exciting,” said Hamilton.

While deployed, New Orleans will conduct maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts, to build trust and partnership and improve regional stability.

“Although leaving our families as we set sail for deployment never gets easier, the mission for which we deploy remains as important to the nation and our allies abroad as ever,” said Capt. Glenn R. Jamison, the commanding officer of New Orleans. “This crew has spent close to a year preparing to deploy—making the ship ready, conducting unit level training, and culminating with integrated, complex exercises that have honed our ability to meet any assigned tasking or potential challenge. I couldn’t be prouder of the ship and this crew, and can assure you, New Orleans is ready for this deployment.”

For more information about New Orleans visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BigEasy18.



Harpers Ferry Conducts Amphibious Operations in Hawaii

By Mass Communications Specialist 3rd Class Zachary Eshleman
(Feb. 20, 2016)



HAWAII - Dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (13th MEU) landed a total of 410 Marines on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, Feb. 19, 2016, during a sustainment exercise (SUSTEX).

Harpers Ferry and the other ships of Boxer Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) moved Marines ashore, via amphibious assault vehicles (AAVs), MV-22 Ospreys, and landing craft, air cushioned (LCACs).

“Practice makes perfect when it comes to these operations,” said Gunnery Sergeant William St. Louis, whose job as combat cargo assistant (CCA) is to safely control the movement of personnel and cargo to and from Harpers Ferry. “There are a lot of different muscle movements going on, but we’re working together well and I think we’re ready for anything we face out there.”

The purpose of SUSTEX is to further cement the ability of Harpers Ferry, the 13th MEU and Boxer ARG to work as a unit and to be able to react to any scenario that they may face as they make their way to the 7th and 5th Fleet areas of operation.

“Absolutely, we are 100% ready,” said Commander John Rigby, Harpers Ferry’s Commanding Officer. “We’ve learned to work very well together and have formed a very strong blue-green team. This operation puts everything fresh in everyone’s minds for when we get over there.”

Upon completion of SUSTEX in Hawaii, the Boxer ARG will continue transiting the Pacific to conduct operations in the 7th and 5th Fleet area of operations.

Boxer ARG is led by Amphibious Squadron One which exercises command and control over, amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4), transport dock ship USS New Orleans (LPD 18) and USS Harpers Ferry.

For more news from Harpers Ferry, visit www.navy.mil/local/lsd49.

Keep up with the Boxer ARG on Facebook by liking the Commander Amphibious Squadron One page at: www.facebook.com/amphibioussquadronone



Commodore: Navy Family Benefits from Diversity

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Matthew Jackson
(Feb. 27, 2016)



(left to right) Capt. Keith Moore (Commodore CPR 1), Col. Anthony Henderson (Commander 13th MEU), Chief Warrant Officer Two Ryan Courton, Capt. Mike Ruth (Commanding Officer USS Boxer) Cut the cake during Black History Month observance onboard USS Boxer (LHD 4).

PACIFIC OCEAN - When Capt. Keith Moore, commander, Amphibious Squadron One considers the contributions of Black and African Americans to the U.S. military two accomplishments stand out in his mind.

"My brother retired as a Senior Chief, so that was a major milestone," said Moore. "He broke the code and four siblings on our side of the family followed him into military service, with three joining the Navy."

Moore spoke about his family's military history, when discussing African American/Black History month. His memories of significant moments in his career help illustrate this year's theme "Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American memories."

"Another accomplishment was when Colin Powell was [selected as] Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff," said Moore. "He set an enviable example for all Americans, to include African Americans."

February marks a time for our Navy and Boxer Amphibious Ready Group to celebrate the history, culture and contributions of African-American Sailors and Marines.

"It's important that we recognize and honor the contributions of all citizens of the United States, all Sailors in the Navy, to include African Americans," said Moore.

African Americans have been contributing to the U.S. Navy's dominance of the seas since the inception of the Navy, and fortifying the broadly diverse fleet with brothers and sisters from many backgrounds.

"When people feel that they have a stake in an organization then that organization is strengthened," said Moore. "I hope the command climate I help engender continues that standard for everyone I meet - man, woman, Marine, Sailor, black, white, Hispanic, everybody. All people want the opportunity to benefit from their talents."

More information on the many milestones achieved by black Sailors and the history of the African-American Navy experience can be found at the Naval History and Heritage Command webpage at <http://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/diversity/african-americans.html>.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Senior Sailor, Junior Sailor and Bluejacket of the quarter



SSOQ Intelligence Specialist 1st Class
Samuel Southern



JSOQ Intelligence Specialist 2nd Class
Freddy Coronel



BJOQ Operations Specialist Seaman
Antonio Howard

Awards & Distinguished Visitors



Capt. Dustin Heffel



Lt. Matthew Demichiel



(left to right) Col. Anthony Henderson (Commander 13th MEU), Erik Quam (Regional Security Education Program (RSEP) instructor), Capt. Mike Ruth (Commanding Officer USS Boxer), Robert Rook (RSEP instructor), Capt. Keith Moore (Commodore CPR 1), Michael Rubin (RSEP instructor)



(left to right) Col. Lee, MMCS Amos Kenebrew (Senior Enlisted Advisor CPR 1), Capt. Patrick Foege (Deputy CPR 1), Col. Anthony Henderson (Commander 13th MEU), Lt. Gen. John Toolan (Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific), Capt. Keith Moore (Commodore CPR 1), Sgt. Maj. William Slade (Command Sergeant Major 13th MEU), CMDCM Matt Ruane (Command Master Chief USS Boxer), CMDCM Jessie Stuckey (Command Master Chief, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific)



Next Month
Meet
CPR 1 Ombudsman
MR. Robert "Rob" Mason
cpr1.ombudsman@gmail.com

NAVY RECREATION March 2016 NBSD Community Recreation Events						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
FOLLOW us on Facebook www.facebook.com/comrecsd/ For calendar details see back side. All Programs, Events & Pricing are subject to change.		1	2	3	4 Every Friday! Test Your Bowling Skills RP	5 • Bowling Pin Bunny Craft LS • The Book of Mormon TO
6 SUNDAY GROUP DANCE CLASSES LS	7 Learn all about SeaWorld LS	8	9	10 PaintN'Vineryard Night LS	11 Test Your Bowling Skills RP Karaoke Night RP	12 • St. Patrick's Day Craft LS • Rohr Park Railroad - Bonita TO
13 Eagle Rock Hike Outing TO* SUNDAY GROUP DANCE CLASSES LS		15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day SK RP	18 Test Your Bowling Skills RP	19 SPRING Fling
20 Kobey's Swap Meet TO Cookie Decorating 101 LS* SUNDAY GROUP DANCE CLASSES LS	21	22	23	24 Waterfront Photo Scavenger Hunt RP	25 Test Your Bowling Skills RP	26 • Harry Potter Movie-A-Thon (Part 1) RP • Warner Bros. Tour TO* • Teambuilding is Fun! LS • Mount Woodson Hike TO
27 SUNDAY GROUP DANCE CLASSES LS	28	29	30 Dream Dinners RP	31	SUNDAY GROUP DANCE CLASSES Admiral Robinson Recreation Center, Bldg. 3223. (different dance styles every month). Register at www.navalylifsw.com or call 619-556-7486 for info. \$5 per person/per class LS	

NBSD Community Recreation's March Calendar Descriptions

General Info: 619-556-6482 • <http://navalylifsw.com/sandiego/recreation/community-recreation/> • Online Registration available for most programs and events on navalylifsw.com

3/5 - Bowling Pin Bunny Craft

Turn a bowling pin into an adorable Easter Bunny! We will provide the supplies; just bring your imagination to Waterfront Community Recreation Center from 2-4 pm. All participants receive a bowling coupon. To register for info: 619-556-9597. **Cost: FREE LS**

3/5 - The Book of Mormon

The theater reviews are in! The Book of Mormon is shocking, profane and surprisingly sweet! You don't want to miss this musical. Sign up early... tickets to the 8 pm show are limited. To register or for info: 619-556-9597 **Cost: \$127.50 per ticket plus \$5 for round trip transportation per duo (optional). TO**

3/10 - PaintN'Vineryard Night

Back by popular demand! Learn to make an original piece of art with our fun, professional instructor at Waterfront Community Recreation Center from 6-8:30 pm! All supplies included and everyone goes home with their own masterpiece. Dinner and wine can be purchased separately at the Budweiser Brew House. Space is limited so sign up early. To register or for info: 619-556-9597. **Cost: \$25 (16 yrs.+) LS**

3/11 - Karaoke Night

Warm up your vocal chords for a fun night of Karaoke at Murphy Canyon Youth Center from 5-7 pm. Prizes awarded for the best performance. Info: 858-268-2828 **Cost: FREE RP**

3/12 - St. Patrick's Day Craft

Bring the kiddos by Murphy Canyon Youth Center from 11 am-1 pm to make a fun St. Patrick's Day craft (while supplies last). Info: 858-268-2828 **Cost: FREE LS**

3/12 - Rohr Park Railroad

4548 Sweetwater Rd, Bonita, CA 91902
Did you know that San Diego County has a functioning steam train? Enjoy a free train ride, light snacks and fun activities at Rohr Park in Bonita from 12-2 pm. To register or for info: 619-556-9597 **Cost: FREE TO**

FOLLOW us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/comrecsd/

3/13 - Eagle Rock Hike Outing*

This moderate, 6-mile, round-trip hike takes you along the Pacific Crest Trail with views of the grasslands and iconic Eagle Rock! Depart The Clubhouse, NBPL, Main Base at 8 am and return around 4 pm. To register or for info: 619-556-9597 or 619-553-9138. **Cost: \$10 (recommended 14 yrs.+) TO**

3/14 - Learn all about SeaWorld

Learn the inside scoop and discover all the fun you can have at SeaWorld San Diego! This class will highlight special events for spring and summer at SeaWorld like Wild Days and the Seven Seas Food Festival. Stop by the Tickets & Travel Office at Waterfront Community Recreation Center from 11 am-1 pm. Info: 619-556-2173 **Cost: Free LS**

3/17 - St. Patrick's Day SK

Have fun before the run at Naval Medical Center San Diego with some great Community Recreation activities, beginning at 10:30 am. Info: 619-532-6080 **Cost: FREE RP**

3/20 - Kobey's Swap Meet

Spend the day bargain shopping at Kobey's Swap Meet where, every weekend, nearly 1,000 merchants display their wares! Bring cash for shopping or snacks. We will depart from the Outdoor Adventure Center, NBSD, Bldg. 3223, at 8 am and return at 1 pm. Reserve your spot by Friday, March 18. To register or for info: 619-556-7493 **Cost: \$5 person for transportation TO**

3/20 - Cookie Decorating 101*

Learn to make royal frosting from scratch and different cookie decorating style just in time for Easter at Waterfront Community Recreation Center. Class starts at 1 pm and runs approximately 2 hours. To register or for info: 619-556-9597. **Cost: FREE LS**

3/24 - Waterfront Photo Scavenger Hunt

Are you up for the challenge? Prizes awarded to the winning team. Competition starts at the Waterfront Community Recreation Center at 5:30 pm. Info: 619-556-9597. **Cost: FREE RP**

3/26 - Harry Potter Movie-A-Thon (Part 1)

Destination Hogwarts! Get ready for Part 1 of the Harry Potter Movie-A-Thon, starting at 1 pm at Waterfront Community Recreation Center. Info: 619-556-9597 **Cost: FREE RP**

3/26 - Warner Bros. Tour*

See where your favorite shows and movies (Friends, Gilmore Girls, Batman, Harry Potter, and more) were filmed on a 2-hour guided tour. Bring a bagged lunch to eat on the bus or before the tour starts. Depart 9:30 am. Register: 619-556-9597 Sign up by 3/10. **Cost: \$60/person (8 yrs.+) TO**

3/26 - Teambuilding is Fun!

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn hands-on about teambuilding! Class begins at 11 am at the Outdoor Adventure Center, NBSD, Bldg. 3223. Sign up by 3/23 Info: 619-556-7493 **Cost: Free LS**

3/26 - Mount Woodson Hike

Join us as we hike through one of the nicest and toughest hiking trails San Diego has to offer and conquer the legendary Potato Chip Rock! Meet at the Poway Lake parking lot at 8:30 am. Register: 619-556-5085 **Cost: FREE (18 yrs.+) TO**

3/30 - Dream Dinners*

10715 Tierrasanta Blvd., San Diego, CA 92124
Two sessions: 6 pm and 7:30 pm
Enjoy a night out with your friends, free of cooking and cleaning. The best part? You'll leave with three, 3-serving ready-to-cook meals from Dream Dinners. Space is limited, so sign up early. To register or for info: 619-556-9597 **Cost: \$24.99 LS**

LS = Leisure Skills Class TO = Trips/Outing RP = Recreation Programs * = Metro Event

2016

PRESENTED BY: 20th ANNUAL SAFARI PARK MIB

FREE FAMILY FESTIVAL
WWW.NAVYLIFESW.COM

Saturday, March 19 - 9 am - 1 pm
NBSD Admiral Pool Fields

Special Presentation by:
20th ANNUAL SAFARI PARK MIB

Entertainment • Arts and Crafts • Amusement Rides
Egg Hunt • All-Hands Car Show • Resource Fair
Navy Armed Forces Kids Run

For more info call: 619-284-4054 or 619-556-7444

SPONSORS: MIB, SAFARI PARK, MIB, DISPATCH, PENNSILE, World Capital

Test Your Bowling Skills

Every Friday, 1-3 pm

Admiral Robinson Recreation Center NBSD, Bldg. 3223
Challenge yourself! The lanes are open from 1-3 pm for Skill Games only! (shoe rental not included) **Cost: FREE RP**

All Programs, Events & Pricing are subject to change.

Sunday Group Dance Classes

Every Sunday

Admiral Robinson Recreation Center NBSD, Bldg. 3223
(different dance styles every month)
5 pm - Beginner
6 pm - Intermediate
7 pm - Line Dance
Info: 619-556-7486
Cost: \$5 per person/per class LS